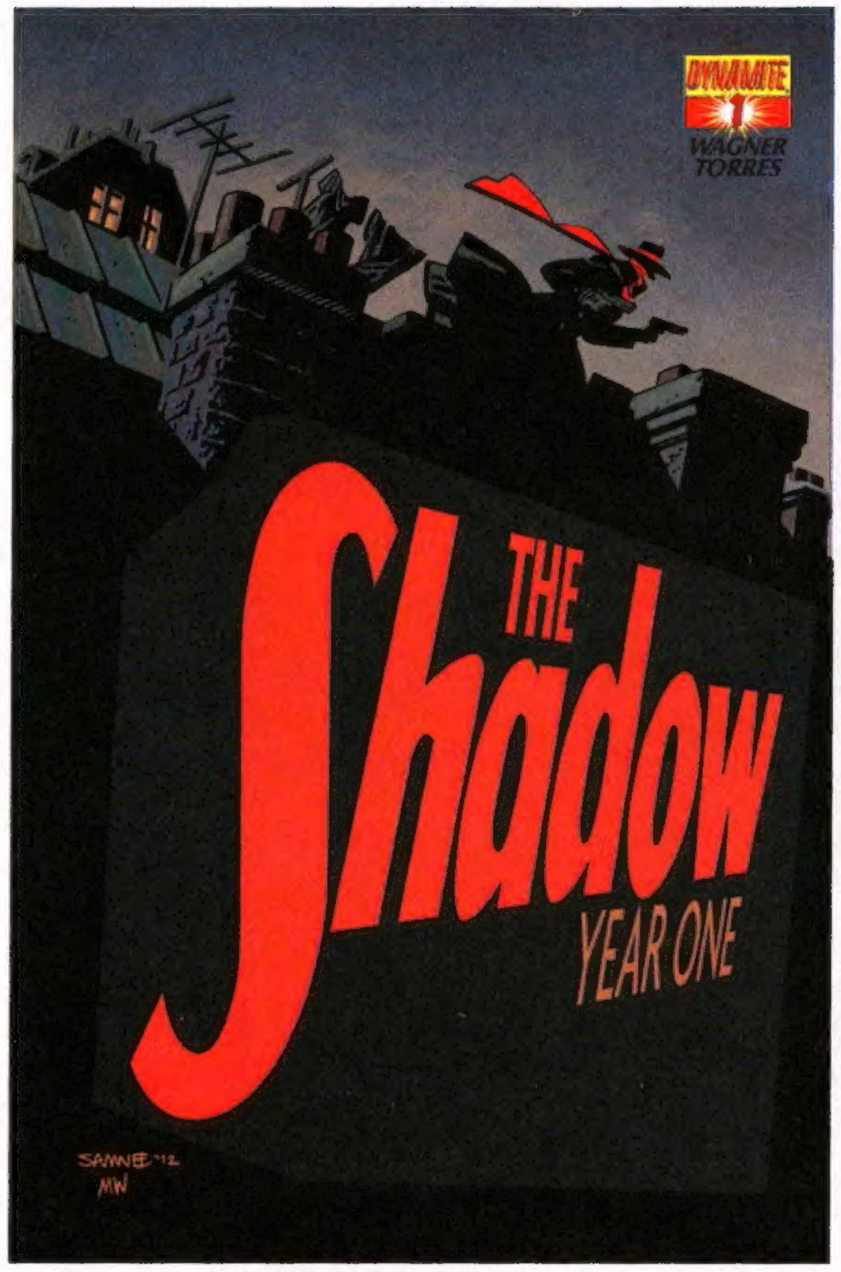
COMIC SHOP NEWS™



Who Knows What Evil Lurks?...

Matt Wagner knows!

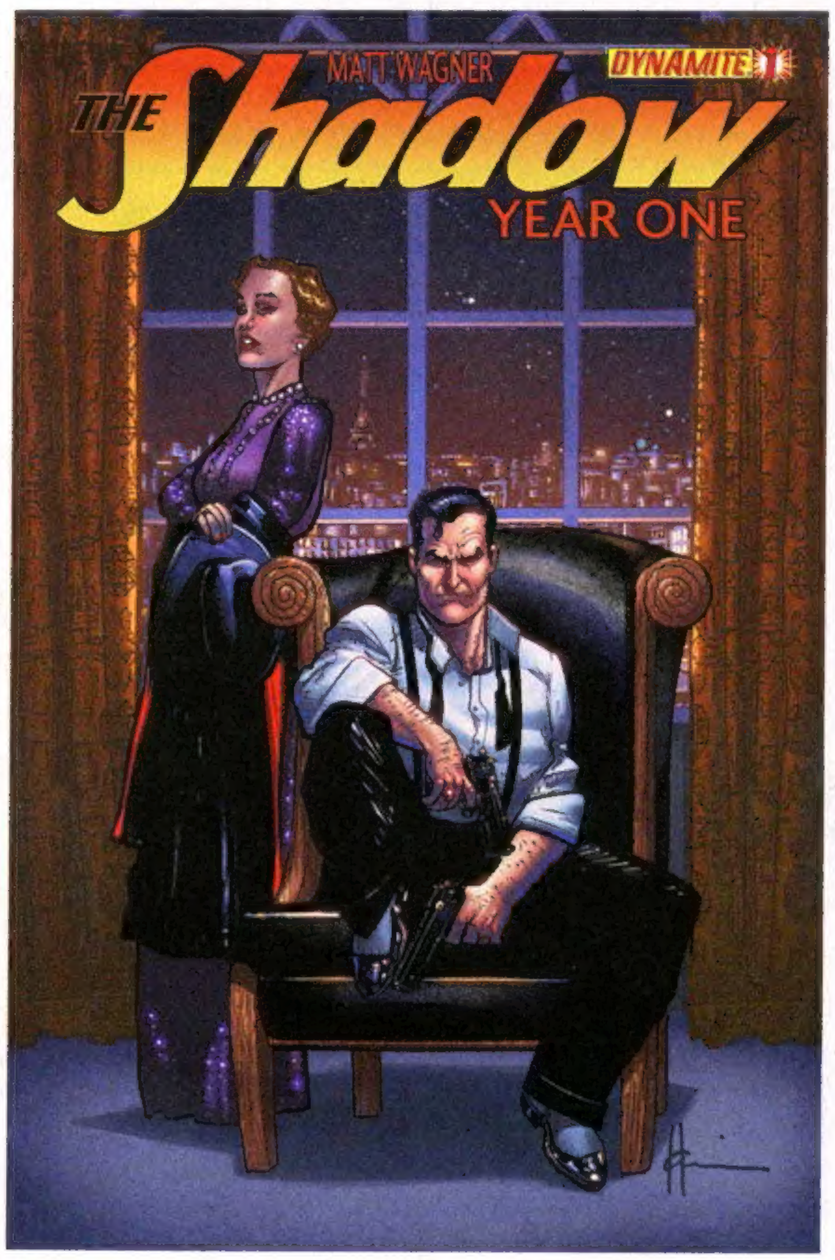
For more than eight decades, the origins of the Shadow have been shrouded in mystery. But *Matt Wagner* is about to shine a spotlight on those mysterious beginnings in ***The Shadow: Year One.***

"The Shadow has long been one of my absolute favorite established characters and I'm thrilled to finally get the chance to contribute to his continuing adventures," *Matt Wagner* told ***CSN***. "I'm getting to help define The Shadow's mysterious origins in a ***Year One*** story arc! For all his published history in both the pulps and comics, as well as his radio adventures, there's surprisingly no depiction of his very first adventures as the dark-clad Master of Men. This series will explore the events that first drew Kent Allard/Lamont Cranston back to the States, how he began to assemble his vast network of agents and how he first adopted the famous black hat and cloak as his alter-ego's disguise-secrets that, up until now...only The Shadow knew!"

Were readers of the pulps ever given any aspects of the Shadow's origins, or did he just sort of appear whole-cloth with all of his abilities fully established? "Well, the original creation of The Shadow was something of an accident," Wagner explained. "Street & Smith Publications were a New York based outfit that published dozens of pulp magazines; they were one of the biggest such publishers, in fact. In an effort to promote one of their ongoing titles, they also produced a weekly radio program called ***Detective Story Hour***, wherein an announcer would read a short story from one of that month's issue of the magazine, ***Detective Story Monthly***. The narrator was given a cool and spooky alias as 'The Shadow,' and it wasn't long until readers started showing up at newsstands wanting a copy of ***The Shadow*** magazine!

"In an effort to secure their copyright on the character, Street & Smith hurried a pulp into production and—in one of those cosmic moments of creative luck—gave the assignment to a young writer who just so happened to be dropping off another story that day. *Walter B. Gibson* was that writer and he took the very vague outline he was given to work with—which was little more than, 'We need a spooky hero who calls himself The Shadow and, uh... oh yeah, set part of it in Chinatown 'cause we wanna re-use an older piece of cover art that features a scared looking Chinese guy'—and he absolutely ran with it.

"In truth, Street & Smith were only interested in getting a handful of issues on the market in order to mark their territorial claims to the name. Little did they suspect that this young author would in turn create one of the most enduring pop culture characters of all time, ultimately writing over 300 Shadow novels! The magazine became so popular that, for a number of years, it was published twice a month! But, as a result of these convoluted beginnings, there was never any proper origin for the character, *per se*. Gibson initially wanted to keep the character as a man of mystery, so the facts of his background and origin were only eventually revealed little by little over the years. But...the existing back-stories (and there are several versions) always cover the character's far-reaching adventures in the aftermath of WWI. There's never been any story that explains why The Shadow returned to America and exactly what threat led him to New York and the beginning of his costumed crusade against crime. *That's* what our tale will finally tell."



Did Wagner have to put in a lot of research time to prepare for ***The Shadow: Year One,*** or was he able to work from memory of the pulp adventures? "I'm a Shadow fan from *waaaaay* back, so I've got a lot of pre-existing knowledge of the character," Wagner said. "For instance, the name *Maxwell Grant* was really a house pseudonym that Street & Smith insisted Gibson use for his pen name on all ***Shadow*** novels he wrote. This was standard operating procedure at the time and was an iron-fisted corporate effort to keep their talent in line and avoid any writer from becoming too popular. If Gibson (or anyone else) started to demand too much money from the success of their efforts, another writer could easily be slotted in to replace him under the *Maxwell Grant* byline. Of course, I've had to continually refresh my own working knowledge of the character and his history—but considering what a big Shadow geek I am, that's more like play than work!"

When did Wagner first get hooked on ***The Shadow?*** "My parents were of that Depression/WWII era ,and I inherited a second-hand nostalgia for that time period via them," Wagner said. "They actually listened to ***The Shadow*** radio program when they were young and told me all about it. At the time—in the mid-70s— you could find a small selection of episodes on vinyl records, and I had a bunch of those. Then, during the same time period, Pyramid Books began reprinting the original pulp novels in paperback form with really stunning covers by *Jim Steranko* so I finally got to read the character's original incarnation as well. And then, of course, DC Comics published a short run of ***Shadow*** comics around the same time, the first batch of which were so very memorably illustrated by *Michael Kaluta*. So, I got a pretty intense dose of exposure to the character all in my early teens and, obviously, it formed quite an impression on me. I fell in love with the atmosphere of mystery and the image of a lone good guy cloaked in black against a sea or crime. I was already a big fan of Batman and in the character of The Shadow, I found the originator of so many of those motifs that enthralled my young imagination."

What are the most important aspects of The Shadow's mythos that Wagner intends to explore in ***Year One?*** "One thing that I often found missing from all this various interpretations of The Shadow was a certain sense of his *humanity*. In the pulp novels, he's a fairly distant and infallible character. I think *Garth Ennis*, in his initial run on ***The Shadow*** for Dynamite, struck a pretty good note in so far as portraying that The Shadow is an actual—albeit extraordinary—man. That's something I'd like to continue in my origin arc," Wagner replied.

Many casual readers of ***The Shadow*** believe him to be Lamont Cranston; who is Kent Allard, and what is his relationship to Cranston and the Shadow? "Gibson established pretty early on that The Shadow is, in fact, *not* Lamont Cranston but rather assumes the identity of the actual, often-travelling millionaire as a matter of convenience. The two men bear a strikingly similar physical appearance, and Cranston's wealth and prestige provide the crime-fighter with the perfect cover to pursue his nocturnal crusade.

"It was many years into the run of the original pulp magazine that Gibson finally unveiled The Shadow's true identity; he is in reality *Kent Allard*, a WWI flying ace and spy who sometimes operated under the alias of 'The Dark Eagle.' In the aftermath of the war, Allard wanders all over the globe, from South America to Russia and, finally, the Far East, wherein he receives the training in psychic disciplines that he later puts to good use in his war on crime.

"Another element that Ennis included in his version of the character is actually inspired by the *Alec Baldwin* movie from the 90s—the fact that Allard really wasn't such a good guy in war's wake and that the Tibetan mystics not only trained him how to use his powers but also how to suppress his darker nature—and, in turn, to utilize such impulses to the service of good. I really like that take on the character since, again, it grants him a real sense of humanity. The emotional fallout of WWI was devastating and it's totally believable that it would leave someone who had seen the war up close and bloody in a fractured state of being. The Great War left many, many people shell-shocked and, in fact, the survivors were often referred to as the Lost Generation. I love the idea that Allard had to learn how to quell his internal shadows in order to become The Shadow."

What about the other identities that The Shadow sometimes adopts—will Wagner devote any attention to them, or is that another story for another time? "Longtime fans of the character will know that he often adopts a handful of other identities as well over the course of his pulp adventures," Wagner said. "I probably won't get into those personas during this eight issue run, simply because there just isn't time—and truthfully, it just muddies the waters in defining his character. Gibson had years and many novels in which to explore The Shadow occasionally assuming the alter-egos of Henry Arnaud and Isaac Trawmbley, but I've gotta hone my focus a little sharper for the purpose of this series. In fact, for the most part, he's operating as Lamont Cranston in my tale...his life as Kent Allard is shrouded in the mystery of his past."

Will any of Allard's experiences as an aviator play a role in ***The Shadow: Year One?*** "Of course!" Wagner said. "Allard was a highly skilled and deadly fighter pilot in the war. The Shadow is, too. We'll see that."

Who are the Shadow's agents that readers will meet in the pages of ***The Shadow Year One***? "Again, longtime fans know that The Shadow's success lies, in great part, in his ability to organize and utilize a vast network of secret agents who aid and abet his ongoing war against crime. In fact, the very first scene of the very first novel, ***The Living Shadow***, depicts The Shadow rescuing and recruiting the man who eventually becomes his most active operative, Harry Vincent. But our story takes place *before* that famous scene...and focuses on an entirely different ally," Wagner explained.

"With a character so shrouded in mystery as The Shadow, I needed a conduit through which to tell his tale—one who could be the reader's surrogate for uncovering our hero's secrets," Wagner went on to explain. "In ***The Shadow: Year One***, that viewpoint is seen through the eyes of Margo Lane. Margo didn't, in fact, exist in the earlier pulp novels but was wholly a creation of the immensely popular ***Shadow*** radio program. Since, on the radio, The Shadow had the 'power to cloud men's minds' to render him invisible (a power he didn't have in the pulps but that was perfectly suited to a medium devoid of visual aspects), the show's producers decided he needed a 'constant friend and companion—ie, someone he could talk to as his adventures unfolded. It wasn't until years later and under pressure from the publishers that Gibson finally, and begrudgingly, introduced Margo into the pulps.

"I'm taking a different tack on both her inclusion into The Shadow's adventures and her previous depictions in some regards. All narration throughout our series is from Margo's point-of-view as she is drawn into

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The Shadow's web of intrigue, a world beyond her wildest nightmares. Luckily for us, social norms have changed enough so that we can depict Lamont's 'constant friend and companion' as what that truly implies—his lover. Here again, Margo's presence brings a sense of humanity to a character whose ruthless campaign against crime can often leave him cold and distant.

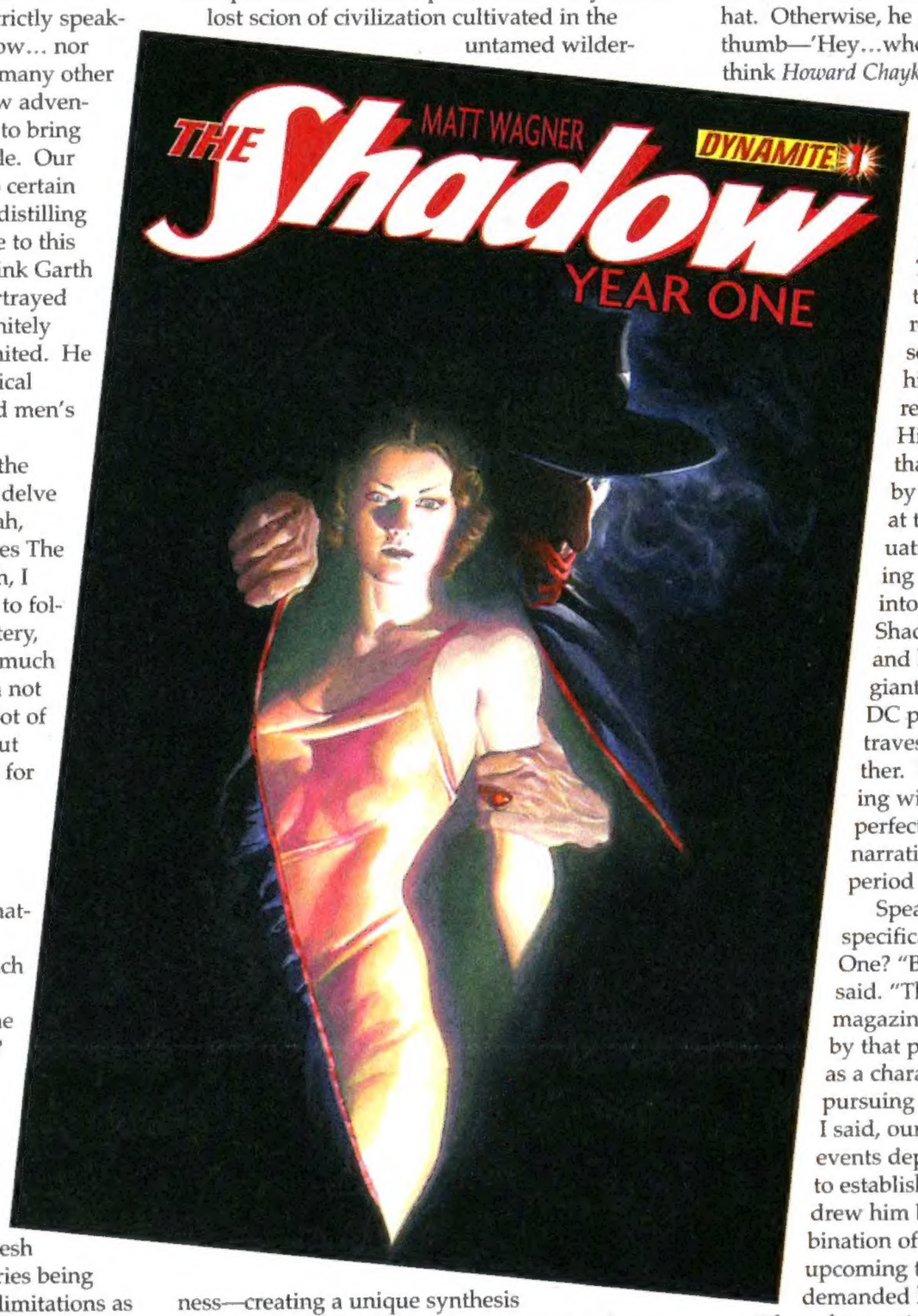
"I'd also like to point out that, strictly speaking, we're not doing the pulp Shadow... nor the radio Shadow... nor any of the many other versions. The only reason to do new adventures of an old character like this is to bring something new and fresh to the table. Our version of The Shadow conforms to certain aspects of all the other variations...distilling the character into something unique to this comic-book series. Here again, I think Garth struck a nice note in the way he portrayed The Shadow's abilities; they're definitely psychic and illusionary, but also limited. He has to rely on his wits and his physical prowess as much as 'power to cloud men's minds.'"

The girasol ring, the slouch hat, the cloak... will ***The Shadow: Year One*** delve into all of those things as well? "Yeah, we're going to show how he becomes The Shadow as we know him. Although, I will say, there's a fine balancing act to follow here...with such a Man of Mystery, there's a danger of spelling out too much of his specifics and just making him not so intriguing. We'll be depicting a lot of The Shadow's earliest adventures but there will also be quite a few things for the reader to just infer and piece together. After all, if you shine too much light on a shadow...it dissipates," Wagner said with a smile.

It's obvious that Wagner is fascinated by this era—he's done so many great stories set during this time, such as ***Sandman Mystery Theatre*** and ***Green Hornet Year One***. What are the most compelling aspects of this era? "Well, as I said, I have a certain 'inherited nostalgia' for the era. But, as I've also said in the past, I find these sorts of tales are the original incarnations of the narratives we've all grown to love so much over the years. As such, they feel fresh and unfettered in regards to the stories being told. Of course, they do have their limitations as well—like the role of women and minorities in those less-enlightened times—so it can be a bit of a challenge to include aspects of what we now know to be the reality of things without seeming like you're shoehorning a contemporary sensibility onto a period narrative.

"And, let's face it... the styles and sense of design was just so fabulous in those days! There was a real aspect of elegance that's missing from modern times. But, considering the differences in technology, there's also a distinct sense of danger as well. We've all become so dependent on our electronic realities that it's hard to imagine a time when you could feel lost and alone in such a vast metropolis as NYC. Today, you'd just call for help on your cell or consult your GPS."

Does Wagner agree with the view that some characters, such as Tarzan, Sherlock Holmes, Doc Savage, and The Shadow—are so closely associated with a specific era that they can only function properly in that time? "Yeah, I *absolutely* agree with that," Wagner replied. "To me, Tarzan doesn't work in an era when Africa isn't still vastly unexplored. The whole point of the story is the lost scion of civilization cultivated in the untamed wilderness—creating a unique synthesis of the two worlds. It just doesn't work if there's available satellite imaging for the entirety of the 'dark continent,' does it?



"I'd also maintain that Sherlock Holmes doesn't quite work outside of the framework of Victorian London. Even though there have been several successful updatings of these characters over the years—I'm thinking specifically here of the current BBC series, ***Sherlock***—they still need to go to some lengths to squeeze the original concept and make it fit into the more contemporary mold; i.e., the recurring gay jokes that run throughout Sherlock to explain two unattached men sharing a small flat in the modern world.

"Really successful pop culture characters are endemic to the time and place that they were created. That's almost always why they're successful in the first place. I feel like The Shadow doesn't really work in a world where every man on the street wasn't commonly wearing a brimmed hat. Otherwise, he stands out like a sore thumb—'Hey...who's that bozo in the hat?' I think *Howard Chaykin's* famous ***Shadow*** miniseries from the late 80s did a great job of revitalizing the character (and, if you'll notice, he doesn't wear the hat that often) but it almost felt like that should have been ***The Shadow's*** last adventure...as if he'd come out of retirement due to the fact that someone was murdering off all his old agents, but then he'd return to his hideaway in the Himalayas, never to return. And that theory's fairly well proved by the fact that, without Howard at the creative wheel, the continuation of that mini into an ongoing series quickly degenerated into ludicrous parody as The Shadow is eventually decapitated and his head supplanted onto a giant robot—*groan!* Thankfully, DC pulled the plug before that travesty could stumble on any further. Luckily though...I love playing with period fiction and so I feel perfectly comfortable keeping our narrative firmly wedged in the time period to which it belongs."

Speaking of eras—what year specifically *is* The Shadow's Year One? "Basically, it's 1930," Wagner said. "The first issue of ***The Shadow*** magazine debuted early in 1931, but by that point, he's already established as a character and already actively pursuing his crusade against crime. As I said, our tale takes place *before* the events depicted in the pulps. I wanted to establish exactly what it was that first drew him back to America. What combination of elements would result in an upcoming tsunami of crime that demanded his attentions?

"I have him arriving back on American soil on the day after Black Tuesday—the infamous day of the stock market crash and the beginning of the Great Depression, which occurred late in 1929. Prohibition had been in effect for nearly ten years and had given rise to America's first organized crime scene. By this point, the Volstead Act, which illegalized the sale and possession of alcohol, was widely acknowledged as an utterly failed and foolish bit of legislation that had done little to curb the flow of booze and had only served to enrich and empower a bold, brash new brand of criminal elite. That societal unrest, coupled with the upcoming financial hardships that swept over the country would generate the setting for a vast wave of crime and gang influence... a challenge that only The Shadow knows how to confront.

"However, this being a pulp/comic-book adventure, that's not the only source of trouble facing our hero. Like I said, if you're going to do this sort of tale, you've gotta provide something new to the narrative. So, I've got a mysterious super-villain added into the mix that's also an impetus for The Shadow finally returning to the states. And let me just state outright...it is *not* Shiwan Khan (the most over-used aspect of the entire Shadow milieu)!! This is a character of my own creation that ties into our hero's past and, again, hopefully provides a bit of humanity to his dark-clad demeanor. "

Is at all intimidating to be tasked with producing an origin story for a character this well-known and this iconic? "I'm not the type to get intimidated by much of anything, creatively speaking... especially at this point in my career," Wagner said. ""I've been very lucky in that I have my own creator-owned properties (***Mage*** and ***Grendel***) but I've also gotten the chance over the years to play with so many of my favorite established characters and concepts. And I've already trodden the ***Year One*** platforms with both ***Zorro*** and ***The Green Hornet***—both for Dynamite as well, I might add—so I'm fairly comfortable in figuring out what makes a character tick and then carving out a new narrative structure based on what's already been established.

"But I've gotta say that The Shadow is the one character I've been dying to do since I can't remember when. He really has been my favorite character for many, many years. I've actually come close to trying my hand at his adventures once or twice in the past but I'm now quite happy those opportunities didn't work out at the time. To get the chance to help redefine The Shadow in a Year One arc is really something of a dream come true for me. In one aspect it's really rather sad, though. Both of my parents passed away in the summer of 2009, and this is one series that I would have been really proud to show them—and one that they might've actually read!"

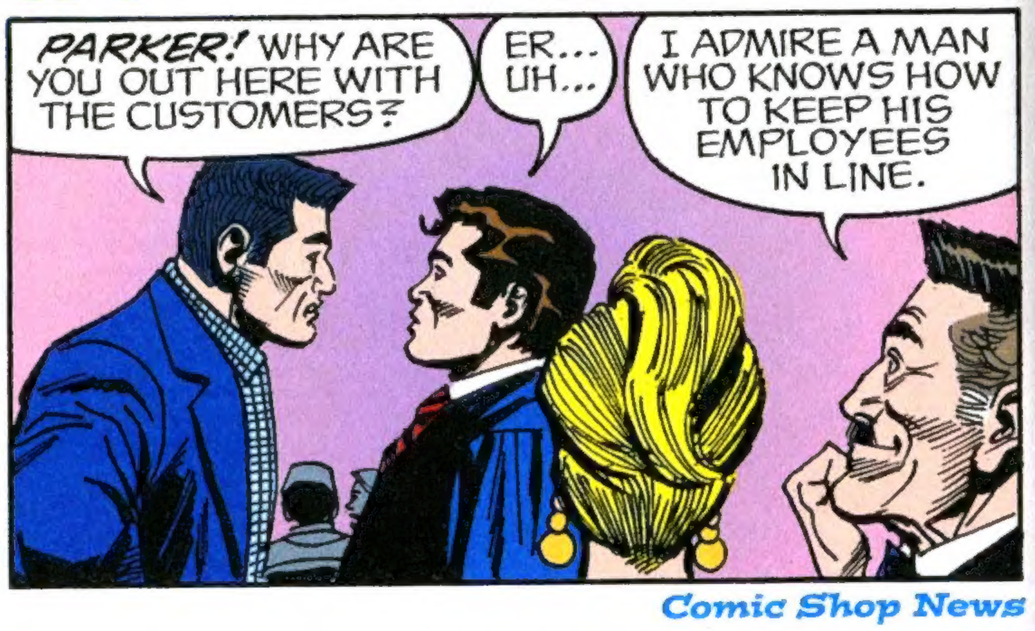
Is there any chance that, when ***The Shadow: Year One*** comes a close, Wagner might return to the character for further adventures, or is ***Year One*** his ultimate statement on The Shadow? "Ah... the answer to that question... only The Shadow knows!" Wagner said in dulcet tones before adding, "Sorry... couldn't resist!"

The Shadow: Year One #1, the kickoff of an eight-issue series from Dynamite Entertainment written by *Matt Wagner* and illustrated by *Wilfredo Torres*, is slated for February 13th release. The first issue will feature covers by *Matt Wagner, Alex Ross, Chris Samnee, Howard Chaykin, & Wilfredo Torres*. In addition, Dynamite will offer an incentive *Alex Ross* 1:25 virgin variant cover, as well as incentive covers featuring hand-drawn illustrations by *Brennan Wagner* (1:50), *Wilfredo Torres* (1:100), *& Matt Wagner* (1:200).

by Cliff Biggers

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER



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EDITORS
Cliff Biggers
Ward Batty

Editorial Office
2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

Business Office
3577-A Chamblee-Tucker Rd. #215
Atlanta, GA 30341
(770) 939-1364
wbatty@csnsider.com

www.csnsider.com
twitter.com/csnsider

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COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

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Comics Take No Holiday

A couple of years ago, Diamond Comics Distribution worked with publishers to create consistent Wednesday release dates throughout the year. This was done to avoid the one-day delays that used to frustrate readers and retailers, and it's worked like a charm.

This year, however, Christmas and New Year's fall on a Tuesday, impacting freight shipments on both the Monday before each holiday and the holiday itself. Nevertheless, Diamond has worked with publishers and retailers to come up with a way to get a selection of new comics into shops on Wednesday, December 26th, followed by a regular weekly shipment arriving on Wednesday, January 2nd. That's right: in spite of the holidays, you'll be able to pick up new comics right on schedule.

The December 26th selection of books will be smaller than an average week—but to make up for that, Marvel and DC are moving major titles into that week, making it worth the day-after-Christmas trip to the comic shop!

The titles scheduled for December 26th release include:

•***Amazing Spider-Man #700,*** the final issue of the series that paves the way for January's ***Superior Spider-Man #1*** (Marvel)

•***Aquaman #15,*** a "Throne of Atlantis" chapter (DC)

•***Avenging Spider-Man #15.1,*** which ties in to ***Amazing Spider-Man #700*** (Marvel)

•***Before Watchmen: Nite Owl #4,*** the final issue of the miniseries by *J. Michael Straczynski, Andy Kubert, & Bill Sienkiewicz* (DC)

•***Comic Shop News #1332*** (CSN)

•***Crossed: Badlands #20*** (Avatar)

•***Deathmatch #1,*** a "superhero-hunger-games" tale by *James Robinson* (Boom)

•***Eerie Presents El Cid HC*** (Dark Horse), a comprehensive collection of all the heroic fantasy tales based on the Spanish historical figure

•***Hip Flask: Ouroborous*** (Image)

•***Justice League #15,*** a "Throne of Atlantis" chapter by *Geoff Johns* and new series artist *Ivan Reis* (DC)

•***Mara #1*** (Image)

•***The Shadow Special #1,*** a *Scott Beatty* tale that explores the Shadow's war years (Dynamite)

•***Star Wars Omnibus: The Clone Wars TP Volume 3—The Republic Falls*** (Dark Horse)

•***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Secret History of the Foot Clan #1*** (IDW)

A week later, everything returns to normal as DC releases the remainder of the New 52 titles that would have normally been released on the fourth week of the month (since January has five Wednesdays, DC is using the first Wednesday to "catch up" before launching their four weekly shipping groups on January 9th); Marvel offers a full selection of new titles; and all other publishers return to their normal schedule.

Kudos to the retailers, publishers, and distributors who put in the extra work to ensure that readers have comics right on schedule *every* week of the year (barring unforeseen natural disasters like Hurricane Sandy!).

Back to Press

Lots of sellouts this week, with ***Amazing Spider-Man*** generating so much buzz in the aftermath of #698's Doc Ock revelation that #699 went back to press a week before the first printing hit comic shops!

•***Amazing Spider-Man #698 2nd Printing*** (OCT128224), featuring a variant cover by *Paolo Rivera,* in stores 12/19.

•***Amazing Spider-Man #699 2nd Printing*** (OCT128312), featuring a variant cover by *Humberto Ramos,* in stores 1/9.

•***Avengers Assemble #9 2nd Printing*** (OCT128307), featuring a variant cover by *Stefano Caselli,* in stores 1/9.

•***Batgirl #14 2nd Printing*** (OCT128240), featuring a recolored version of the cover by *Ed Benes,* in stores 12/19.

•***Blackacre #1 2nd Printing*** (OCT128301), in stores 1/2.

•***Damsels #1 2nd Printing*** (OCT128292), in stores 1/2.

•***Deadpool #1 2nd Printing*** (OCT128308), featuring a variant cover by *Geof Darrow,* in stores 1/9.

•***Deadpool #2 2nd Printing*** (OCT128309), featuring a variant cover by *Geof Darrow,* in stores 1/9.

•***Doctor Who Vol 3 #2 2nd Printing*** (OCT128290), in stores 1/23.

•***Great Pacific #2 2nd Printing*** (OCT128303), in stores 1/2.

•***Hawkeye #3 2nd Printing*** (OCT128311), featuring a variant cover by *David Aja,* in stores 1/9.

•***Journey Into Mystery #646 2nd Printing*** (OCT128310), featuring a variant cover by *Jeff Dekal,* on stores 1/9.

•***I Love Trouble #1 2nd Printing*** (OCT128304), in stores 1/2.

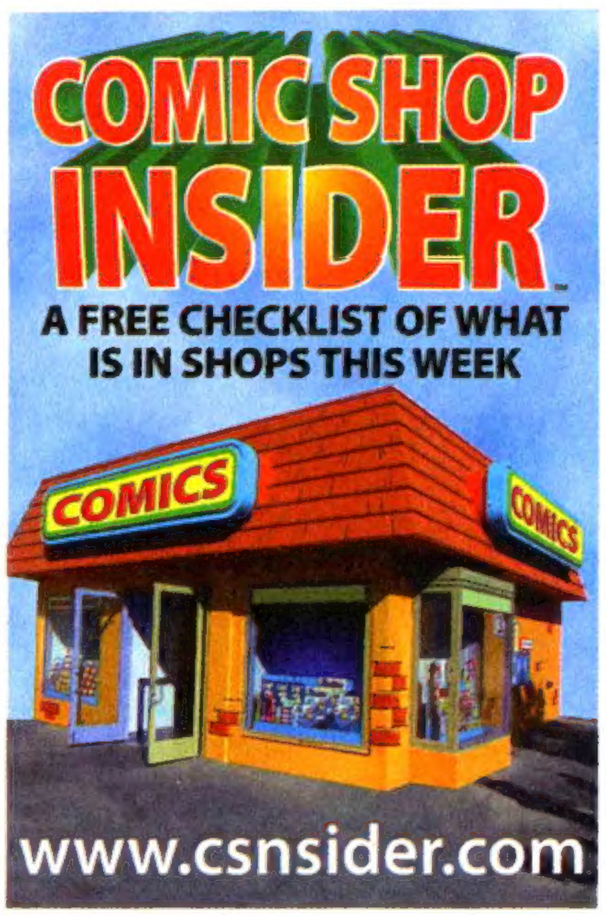
•***My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic #1 3rd Printing*** (OCT128289), in stores 1/23.

•***My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic #1 Box Set 3rd Printing*** (OCT128291), in stores 1/23.

•***Nowhere Men #1 2nd Printing*** (OCT128305), in stores 1/2.

•***Suicide Squad #14 2nd Printing*** (OCT128239), featuring a recolored version of the cover by *Ken Lashley,* in stores 12/19.

•***Supurbia (Ongoing) #1 2nd Printing*** (OCT128246),



AS PETER MAKES A CALL TO MJ...
YOU THINK YOU'VE FIGURED OUT WHAT KRAVEN'S AFTER THERE IN VEGAS?
YEAH. BUT UP TILL THIS VERY MINUTE, HONEY—
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-3

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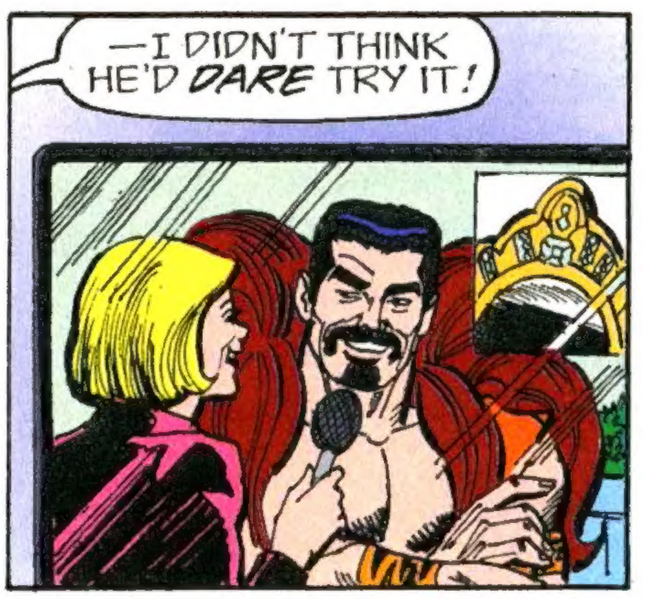


ACTION COMICS #16

Grant Morrison (W); Rags Morales (A)

(DC NOV120178 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Man of Steel takes on the worst foe the multiverse has ever seen: Superdoom, a demon Superman from an alternate unviverse! And we finally learn more about the Little Man and why he hates Superman so much.

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison's amazing run on *Action Comics* ends with #17, so anyone who's ever enjoyed his Superman saga will want to see how it all ends!

AQUAMAN #16

Geoff Johns (W); Paul Pelletier (A)

(DC NOV120166 $2.99)

JUSTICE LEAGUE #16

Geoff Johns (W); Ivan Reis (A)

(DC NOV120161 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The United States and the Justice League go to war against Atlantis, and Aquaman finds himself caught in the middle of the battle... a battle that will pave the way for the creation of a new Justice League of America.

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns describes "Throne of Atlantis" as the first in a series of character-centric stories that will focus on individual members of the Justice League—and obviously he's beginning with Aquaman. But what happens in here will not only affect the Justice League and Aquaman, but will lead to the creation of an all-new superteam destined to play a pivotal role in the DCU.

BEFORE WATCHMEN: DOLLAR BILL #1

Len Wein (W); Steve Rude (A)

(DC DEC120158 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Dollar Bill, the college athlete turned costumed hero and corporate icon, gets his moment in the sun in this oneshot that explores the background and motivation of the ill-fated crimefighter.

Why Should You Care?

Len Wein & Steve Rude veer away from the high-profile heroes who have been the focus of ***Before Watchmen*** to explore the background and career of a character who was little more than footnote in Hollis Mason's ***Under the Hood.***

BIONIC MAN VS BIONIC WOMAN #1

Keith Champagne (W); José Luis (A)

(Dynamite NOV121098 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

When Steve Austin goes missing, it's up to Jamie Sommers to find him... but the case gets more complicated when evidence arises that indicates that a bionic serial killer is on the loose.

Why Should You Care?

Ever since Dynamite launched ***Bionic Man*** and ***Bionic Woman,*** readers have hoped for a meeting of the two characters—and now, even better, they get a full six-issue miniseries focusing on their first crossover adventure!

CRAWLING SKY #1 (OF 5)

Joe R. Lansdale & Keith Lansdale (W); Brian Denham (A)

(Antarctic NOV120843 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

A brother and sister who fled their family's murderous past find supernatural trouble in Texas wehn they unblock an old well—and int he process they free something old, dark, and *very* evil...

Why Should You Care?

Acclaimed horror author *Joe R. Lansdale* makes his Antarctic Press debut with this original Old West horror tale, co-written with his son *Keith Lansdale.* And if there's anyone who knows how to tell Western horror tales, it's the Lansdales!

DEADPOOL KILLUSTRATED #1 (OF 4)

Cullen Bunn (W); Matteo Lolli (A)

(Marvel NOV120752 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The ever-unpredictable Deadpool takes on—or shold we say *takes out*—some of classic literature's most iconic charcters.

Why Should You Care?

This series by *Cullen Bunn* springs out of his multiple-sellout ***Deadpool Kills the Marvel Universe,*** using the Nexus of All Realities as a doorway for one of the zaniest of all Deadpool miniseries.

CSN TOP COM

DOCTOR WHO: PRISONERS OF TIME #1 (OF 12)

David Tipton & Scott Tipton (W); Simon Fraser (A)

(IDW NOV120348 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

What sort of adventure can be so epic in scope as to require the involvement of all eleven incarnations of the Doctor? You'll find out in this yearlong limited series!

Why Should You Care?

IDW celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of ***Doctor Who*** with an adventure featuring all eleven Doctors—and that's something you could see *only* in comics!

HIGH WAYS #1 (OF 4)

John Byrne (W/A)

(IDW NOV120407 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Young Eddie Wallace discovers that the solar system can be a dangerous place when he joins the crew of a spacefaring freighter hauling cargo along the High Ways.

Why Should You Care?

John Byrne ventures into space for an adventure series that blends elements of ***Dan Dare*** and *Robert A. Heinlein* into a classic SF adventure story—and even better, it links to Byrne's *Next Men* in a subtle but significant way!

INJUSTICE: GODS AMONG US #1

Tom Taylor (W); Jheremy Raapack (A)

(DC NOV120289 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The fighting game inspired by DC Comics' heroes and villains inspires its own comic book—an original series that explores the background of this world and the events that lead up to the start of the epic game.

Why Should You Care?

The success of DC superhero comics based on other media properties—***Batman: Arkham City, Smallville, Arrow***—makes it clear that DC's readers welcome new universes and new takes on their favorite heroes and villains, so long as they're done well. The game's creators are confident that fans are going to like what they find in this official game prequel.

JIM BUTCHER'S DRESDEN FILES: GHOUL GOBLIN #1

Jim Butcher & Mark Powers (W); Ardian Syaf (A)

(Dynamite NOV121094 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Harry Dresden may have survived the events of ***Fool Moon,*** but he still has many problems to overcome: he's alienated from his closest friend, he's on very bad terms with Chicago's number one gangster, and the creatures of Nevernever just aren't willing to give him a break...

Why Should You Care?

Dresden Files creator *Jim Butcher* returns to comics to co-write this original miniseries that picks up where ***Fool Moon*** left off. And you can't get much more "in-continuity" than that!

MARS ATTACKS KISS (ONE SHOT)

Chris Ryall (W); Alan Robinson (A)

(IDW NOV120324 $3.99)

MARS ATTACKS POPEYE (ONE SHOT)

Martin Powell (W); Terry Beatty (A)

(IDW NOV120321 $3.99)

MARS ATTACKS REAL GHOSTBUSTERS (ONE SHOT)

Erik Burnham (W); José Holder (A)

(IDW NOV120327 $3.99)

MARS ATTACKS TRANSFORMERS (ONE SHOT)

Shane McCarthy (W); Matt Frank (A)

(IDW NOV120330 $3.99)

MARS ATTACKS ZOMBIES VS ROBOTS (ONE SHOT)

Chris Ryall (W); Andy Kuhn (A)

(IDW NOV120333 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Martians attack five different IDW realities, from the whimsical world of Popeye to the horrifying reality of ***Zombies Vs. Robots,*** with stops along the way to take on Transformers, confront KISS, and go up against Ghostbusters!

Why Should You Care?

IDW has made a January tradition out of these surprising multiple-reality event storylines (remember the two ***Infestation*** arcs focusing on

ICS: JANUARY

zombies and Lovecraftean menaces?), and they never fail to entertain!

MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE: ORIGIN OF HE-MAN #1

Joshua Hale Fialkov (W); Ben Oliver (A)

(DC NOV120294 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Learn how Prince Adam first harnessed the power of Grayskull, and witness his first battle with Skeletor in this origin oneshot.

Why Should You Care?

DC's *Masters of the Universe* proved that there's still an eager audience for well-crafted tales of He-Man, Skeletor, and the defenders of Eternia. This oneshot, the second standalone origin tale (October's *Skeletor* was the first) should not only appeal to readers of the ongoing series but also to lapsed fans who'd like to learn all about the hero's beginnings.

MORBIUS, THE LIVING VAMPIRE #1 NOW

Joe Keatinge (W); Richard Elson (A)

(Marvel NOV120653 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

After escaping from the Raft, Doctor Michael Morbius sets out to prove that he's a good man who just needs a second change. However, the world may not be so eager to welcome him back...

Why Should You Care?

Morbius spins out of the most cataclysmic *Amazing Spider-Man* arc in many years, and that should translate into a huge audience for the series launch. Could *Morbius* be the vampire success that has eluded Marvel in recent years? Looks likely!...

NEW AVENGERS #1 NOW

Jonathan Hickman (W); Steve Epting (A)

(Marvel NOV120625 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

To prevent the conclusion of the Marvel Universe with another, Black Panther assembles the Illuminati—the Panther, Iron Man, Doctor Strange, Black Bolt, Mister Fantastic, Namor, and the Beast—to save their world from a legion of parallel realities.

Why Should You Care?

Jonathan Hickman & Steve Epting resurrect one of the most fascinating and underdeveloped concepts in Marvel history—the powerful, conspiratorial Illuminati—in this bold *New Avengers* revamp.

SAVAGE WOLVERINE #1 NOW

Frank Cho (W/A)

(Marvel NOV120643 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

no idea how he got there and Shanna the She-Devil as his only ally in a world that seems determined to eliminate him.

Why Should You Care?

Frank Cho is both writer and artist of this *tour de force* filled with brutality, brawls, brachiosaurs, and babes—and Cho is an expert in all of those!

This is one of those Wolverine projects that fans are going to be talking about for years to come!

STAR TREK: COUNT-DOWN TO DARKNESS #1

Roberto Orci & Mike Johnson (W); David Messina (A)

(IDW NOV120340 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

There's a new *Star Trek* film coming up in 2013—but if you want to be ahead of the curve, you can get an idea of what's in the works by reading this official prequel.

Why Should You Care?

This isn't just any *Star Trek* story—it's a lead-in to the film co-written by *Star Trek* writer/producer *Roberto Orci* and *Mike Johnson*. You can't get moe official than that!

STAR WARS #1

Brian Wood (W); Carlos D'Anda (A)

(Dark Horse NOV120010 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Revisit the *Star Wars* universe in the adventure-filled days following the destruction of the Dath Star, when the Empire ruled, the Rebels were on the run, and the galaxy was a dangerous place where *anything* might happen...

Why Should You Care?

It's what *Star Wars* fans have asked for for years: *Brian Wood & Carlos D'Anda* launch a *real Star Wars* ongoing series at last—a series focusing on Luke, Leia, Han, Darth Vader, and the rest of the cast of the original trilogy.

SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #1 NOW

Dan Slott (W); Ryan Stegman (A)

(Marvel NOV120633 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Peter Parker is Spider-Man no longer... but that doesn't mean that the Marvel Universe will have to go without a web-spinning hero. No, there's a new Spider-Man on duty... but who is he, and how did he acquire the powers of Spider-Man? And what's happened to Peter Parker?

Why Should You Care?

Dan Slott promised that the events of *Amazing Spider-Man #s 698-700* would shake up Spider-Man continuity in an unheard-of way, and he delivered. But the surprises aren't over yet!

THRESHOLD #1

Keith Giffen (W); Tom Raney & Scott Kolins (A)

(DC NOV120237 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Disgraced Green Lantern Jediah Caul (last seen in *Green Lantern: New Guardians Annual #1*), now stripped of his power ring struggles to survive—and to earn back his self-respect—in the lead story of this new ongoing SF series set in the New 52. And in the backup story, Larfleeze takes possession of his very own series!

Why Should You Care?

Keith Giffen, whose involvement in the science-fictional side of the DCU goes back more than thirty years to *Legion of Super-Heroes* and *Omega Men*, is the mastermind of this new series that offers an updated look at DC's spacefaring heroes, some of whom will make their New 52 debuts in these pages.

UNCANNY X-FORCE #1 NOW

Sam Humphries (W); Ron Garney (A)

(Marvel NOV120620 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Psylocke and Storm assemble a new team of outcasts and scoundrels to deal with the situations that the X-Men fear and hate. The roster includes Puck, Spiral, and Cluster—and their first adversary is none other than Bishop!

Why Should You Care?

Sam Humphries & Ron Garney present a new X-Force with fan-favorite Storm in a leadership role—and yes, it's a mutant team that *doesn't* include Wolverine!

YOUNG AVENGERS #1 NOW

Kieron Gillen (W); Jamie McKelvie (A)

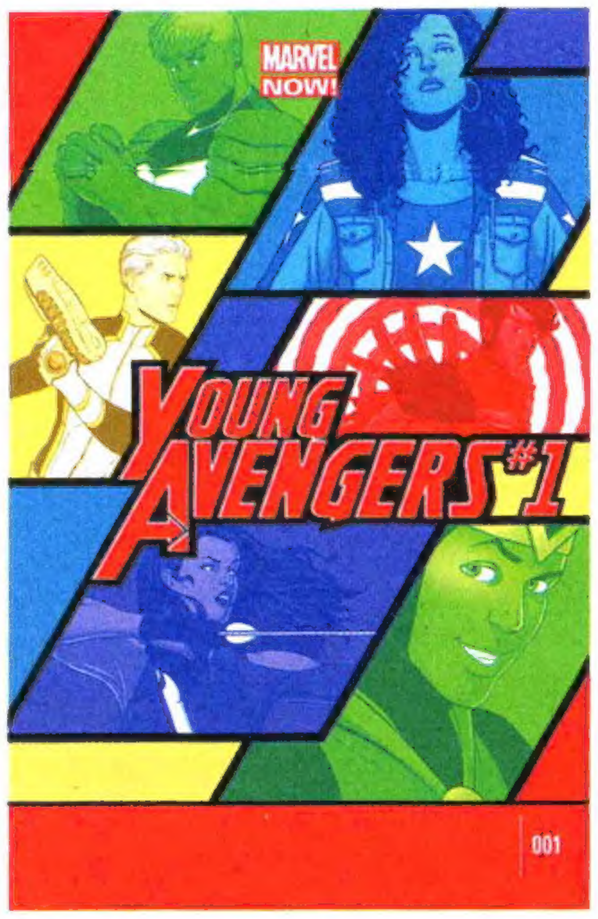
(Marvel NOV120649 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Marvel Universe gets its own teen superteam with the return of the Young Avengers: Wiccan, Hulkling, and Hawkeye, along with Loki, Marvel Boy, and Ms. America.

Why Should You Care?

Fans have asked for more Young Avengers ever since the end of the *Allan Heinberg* series—and now, at long last, their requests have been answered!



twitter.com/csnsider

DESPITE MY PREVIOUS UNJUSTIFIED JAIL TIME, I'VE RECEIVED A COMPLETE PARDON!
NOW EVERYONE KNOWS THE TIARA WILL BE SAFE WITH ME PROTECTING IT!!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-4
"EVERY-ONE" MAY KNOW IT, BUT NOT ME!

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X-FORCE: WOLVERINE FINE ART STATUE

(Kotobukiya JUL121880 $209.99)

ß Sculpted by Erick Sosa, this striking Wolverine figure stands 10.5" tall, produced in the same 1/6 scale as the other Kotobukiya X-Force Fine Art Statues—and his demolished brick base matches theirs as well, if you're trying to construct your own high-quality diorama!

FYI: A Must-Have Addition to Your Reference Library

FRAZETTA SKETCHBOOK SC

(Vanguard SEP121231 $24.95)

Frank Frazetta's total comics pagecount may not be voluminous, but his influence on generations of comic book illustrators in unimaginable. This new collection of Frazetta sketches demonstrates the energy, the sensuality, and the vitality of his art, from pencil and pen-and-ink work to painted roughs and preliminaries.

Check 'Em Out:
Comics You *Should* Be Reading!

ADVENTURE TIME: FIONNA & CAKE #1 (OF 6)

(Boom NOV120957 $3.99)

Fionna & Cake creator and ***Adventure Time*** storyboard artist *Natasha Allegri* does the honors on this quirky new ***Adventure Time*** spinoff—and a comic can't come with better credentials than that!

ARROW #2

(DC OCT120237 $3.99)

ARROW #3

(DC NOV120251 $3.99)

And here's *another* comic that goes straight to the TV series' creators to do the honors! *Marc Guggenheim & Andrew Kreisberg* are the masterminds for this comic that spins out of the hit CS series—and even better, they say that storylines from the comics will tie in to the show!

BLOODSHOT #7

(Valiant NOV121336 $3.99)

Discover Bloodshot's hidden history in the Valiant Universe - and why he is so crucial to its future—in this tale that Valiant promises will be *essential* to the next year of the Valiant Universe!

END TIMES OF BRAM & BEN #1 (OF 4)

(Image NOV120448 $2.99)

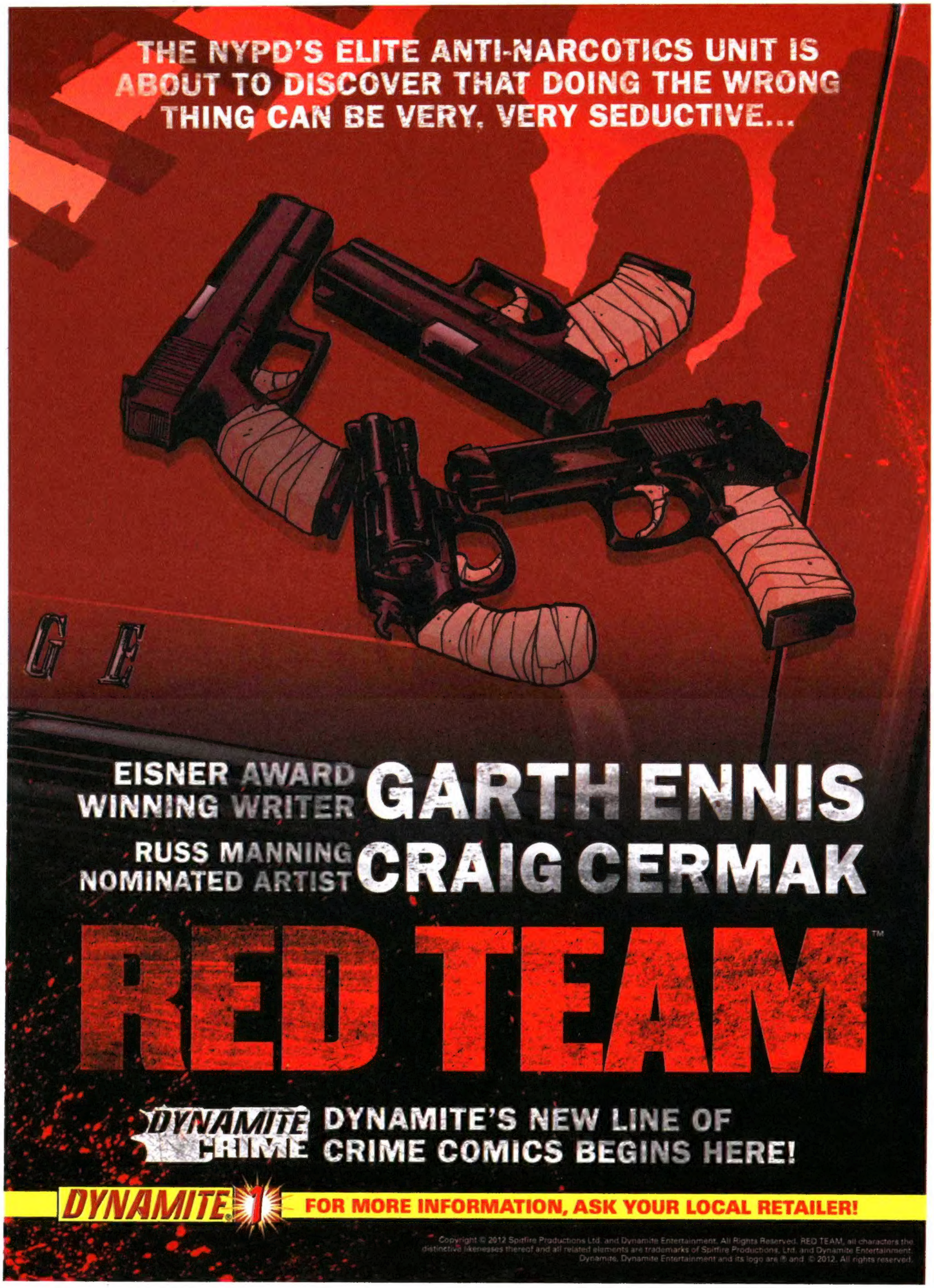
An apocalyptic buddy-comedy? That's what *James Asmus & Jim Festante* deliver in this offbeat new seires. When Heaven raptures total bastard Bram Carlson in a 'clerical error' - he's sent back and immediately uses Armageddon to his benefit!

MASKS #3

(Dynamite NOV121081 $3.99)

Dynamite's pulp-era crossover extravaganza continues, courtesy of *Chris Roberson & Dennis Calero.* The Spider ventures to Albany to investigate the newly elected—and very corrupt— overnor who has signed all of the unjust measures into law, while Green Hornet seeks

to find the secret masters of the Justice Party. The Shadow encounters other heroes who have run afoul of the Black Legions, and still more individuals are inspired to don masks and take to the streets in the name of justice.


THE NYPD'S ELITE ANTI-NARCOTICS UNIT IS ABOUT TO DISCOVER THAT DOING THE WRONG THING CAN BE VERY, VERY SEDUCTIVE...
EISNER AWARD WINNING WRITER GARTH ENNIS
RUSS MANNING NOMINATED ARTIST CRAIG CERMAK
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January's Big Event "Death of the Family"

BATGIRL #16 (DOTF)
Gail Simone (W); Ed Benes (A)
(DC NOV120205 $2.99)

BATMAN #16 (DOTF)
Scott Snyder (W); Greg Capullo (A)
(DC NOV120190 $3.99)

BATMAN AND ROBIN #16 (DOTF)
Peter Tomasi (W);
Patrick Gleason & Mick Gray (A)
(DC NOV120198 $2.99)

DETECTIVE COMICS #16 (DOTF)
John Layman (W);
Jason Fabok & Andy Clarke (A)
(DC NOV120202 $3.99)

NIGHTWING #16 (DOTF)
Kyle Higgins (W);
Eddy Barrows & Eber Ferreira (A)
(DC NOV120211 $2.99)

TEEN TITANS #15
Scott Lobdell (W);
Brett Booth & Norm Rapmund (A)
(DC OCT120229 $2.99)

TEEN TITANS #16 (DOTF)
Scott Lobdell (W);
Brett Booth & Norm Rapmund (A)
(DC NOV120245 $2.99)

The Joker's plan fully unfolds as the story rapidly builds towards its February conclusion—but there are still many surprises and horrifying revelations in store. The Joker continues to target Batman's "family," forcing the Dark Knight to enlist the help of some surprising new allies (did you ever think you'd see Batman making an agreement with the Penguin?). But the real star of this story is the Joker himself—and this is the most malevolent, depraved, and sadistic Joker you've ever seen!

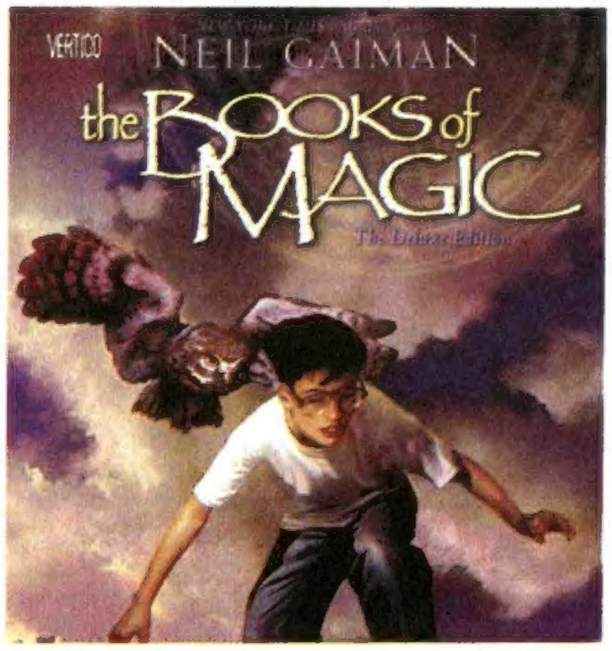
Collected Cool: January's Best Reprint Editions

ABSOLUTE BATMAN & ROBIN HC: BATMAN REBORN
(DC OCT120264 $99.99)

This oversized slipcased hardcover collects the entirety of the *Grant Morrison/Frank Quitely* run: ***Batman and Robin #s 1-16*** and ***Batman: The Return #1.***

BLACK INCAL DELUXE HC VOL 1
(Humanoids OCT121119 $79.95)

Meet Class 'R' Detective John Difool and embark with him on his journey to discovering the secrets of the mystical Incal artifact in the first volume of the best-selling international masterpiece by *Moebius & Alejandro Jodorowsky.*



BOOKS OF MAGIC DELUXE EDITION HC
(Vertigo/DC SEP120257 $24.99)

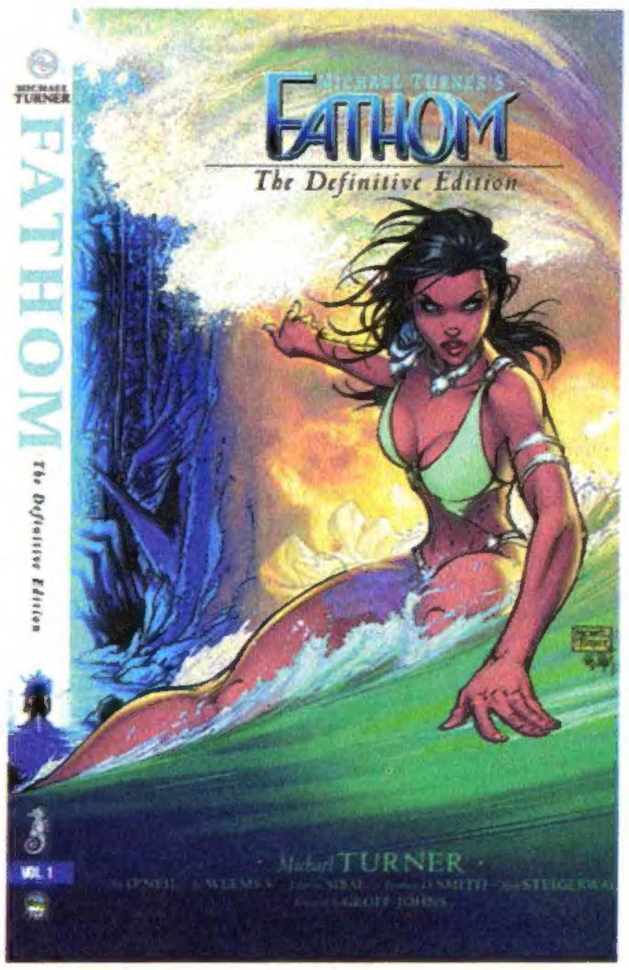
All four issues of the original miniseries by *Neil Gaiman, John Bolton,* and others are collected in harddcover in hardcover for the first time. This series not only introduces Timothy Hunter (with whom Harry Potter shares a surprising number of characteristics), it also features apeparances by John Constantine, Phantom Stranger, Mister E, and Doctor Occult, among others

COMPLETE FUNKY WINKERBEAN HC VOL 1 1972-1974
(Black Squirrel NOV120946 $45.00)

The first three years of *Tom Batiuk's* strip are collected at long last. Witness the humble beginnings of a high-school humor strip—a strip that has expanded over the years as its characters grew, matured, and experienced the joys and heartaches of adulthood. But here you'll find all the fun and frustation of life in high school, as you meet Funky and his Westview High friends.

DAVE STEVENS' ROCKETEER ARTIST EDITION (NEW EDITION)
(IDW OCT120432 $150.00)

If you missed out on this remarkable book the first time, here's an all-too-rare second opportunity! Shot from *Dave Stevens'* original art and reproduced full size and in full color to show off blue-lines, corrections, and more, this is as close as you'll come to owning Stevens' original pages!



FATHOM DEFINITIVE EDITION HC
(Aspen NOV120898 $99.99)

Every single story page, cover, and pinup by the late, great *Michael Turner* is presented in this 456-page hardcover.

GAHAN WILSON'S SUNDAY COMICS HC
(Fantagraphics NOV121174 $26.99)

Gahan Wilson's morbidly twisted sense of humor presented in a syndicated comic strip? Yes indeed—and the entire run of the short-lived strip is presented in this volume!

SHOWCASE PRESENTS WEIRD WAR TALES TP VOL 1
(DC SEP120239 $19.99)

Take one part war, one part horror, mix well, and you have ***Weird War Tales.*** This affordable black-and-white volume presents 21 issues of creepy war stories by *Robert Kanigher, Joe Kubert,* and others.

STEVE DITKO'S MONSTERS HC VOL 1: GORGO
(IDW NOV120414 $34.99)

At the same time *Steve Ditko* was doing his pioneering work at Marvel Comics, he was also preoducing this memorable giant-monster book for Charlton. This hardcover reprints the entire run of the *Joe Gill-Steve Ditko* series, including issues done at the very same time he was producing those amazing Spider-Man and Doctor Strange tales.

TEEN TITANS OMNIBUS BY GEOFF JOHNS HC
(DC SEP120242 $150.00)

This massive volume collects *Geoff Johns'* wonderful run of Titans tales, , including ***Teen Titans #1/2-26, 29-46 & 50, Legends Of The DC Universe #2, Titans Secret Files #2, Teen Titans/Outsiders Secret Files 2003, Beast Boy #1-4, Teen Titans/Legion Of Super Heroes Special #1, Outsiders #24-25, Robin #147-147, Infinite Crisis #5-6,*** and ***Teen Titans Annual #1.***

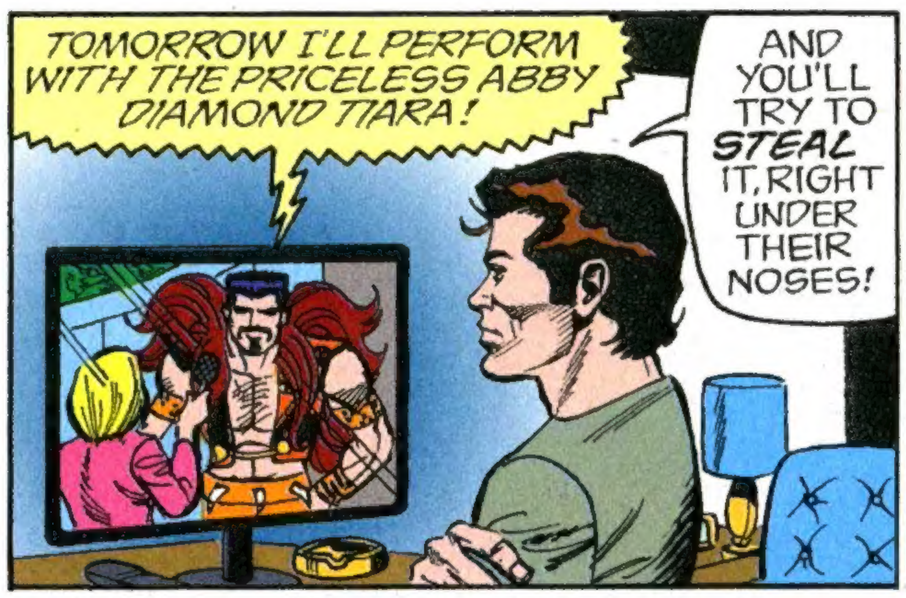
Hot Commodities: January's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

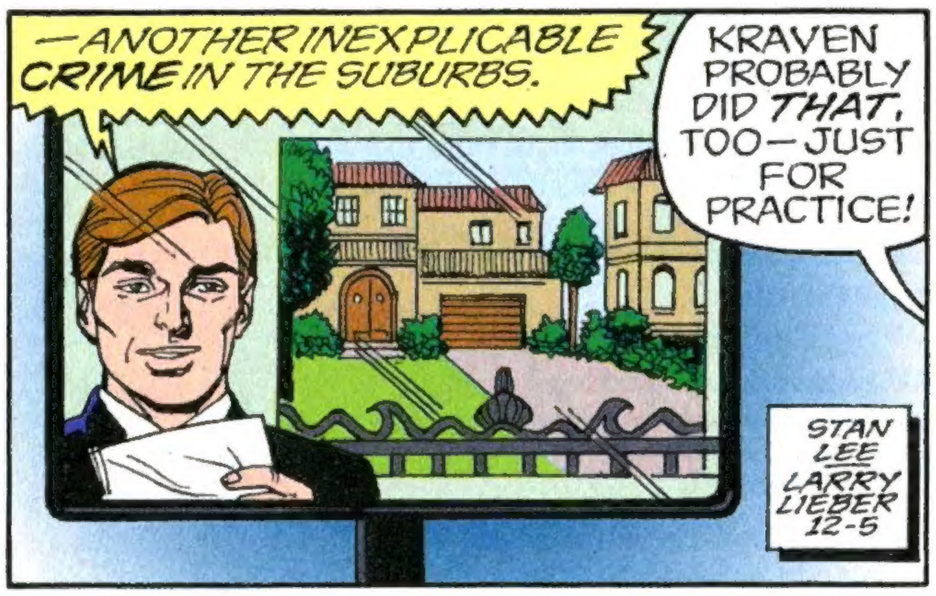
DARK KNIGHT RETURNS ACTION FIGURE BOX SET
(DC Collectibles OCT120313 $59.95)

The gang's all here in this special 'The Dark Knight Returns' four-pack featuring Batman, Robin, Superman, and The Joker as envisioned by *Frank Miller* in the classic ***Dark Knight Returns.***

SPIDER-MAN STATUE
(Bowen NOV121808 $230.00)

Digitally sculpted by *The Kucharek Brothers* and standing 12" tall, Spider-Man comes to life as never before in this stunning statue produced to the rigorous standards of quality for which Bowen Designs is famous.




—ANOTHER INEXPLICABLE CRIME IN THE SUBURBS.
KRAVEN PROBABLY DID THAT, TOO—JUST FOR PRACTICE!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-5
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"JUSTICE LEAGUE IS A GREAT PLACE TO JUMP ON IF YOU HAVEN'T YET."
–IGN
"THE FLAGSHIP TITLE OF THE NEW 52 [LIVES] UP TO THE NAME."
–NEWSARAMA
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THE SECOND GRAPHIC NOVEL HARDCOVER COLLECTION OF THE BEST-SELLING SERIES
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